



**November 7, 2002**

**Samuel Sanchez is sentenced to life imprisonment in the  
carjacking and murder of Jason Burgeson and Amy Shute**

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**There is no possibility of parole**

A federal judge today sentenced **Samuel Sanchez** to life in federal prison for his role in the June 2000 carjacking and murder of Jason Burgeson and Amy Shute. In July 2001, Sanchez pleaded guilty to federal carjacking charges, admitting that he was one of five men who took part in the abduction of Burgeson and Shute in Burgeson's SUV, and in their execution-style murders at a remote Johnston construction site.

United States Attorney Margaret E. Curran announced the sentence, which Senior U.S. District Court Judge Ronald R. Lagueux imposed in U.S. District Court, Providence. Judge Lagueux granted a motion by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan to depart upward in sentencing Sanchez, going beyond what was called for by federal sentencing guidelines. Under federal sentencing law, Sanchez, 22, will not be eligible for parole or early release from his life sentence.

Two codefendants have also been sentenced to life in federal prison for the carjacking homicides: the triggerman, **Gregory Floyd**, and **Harry Burdick**. A fourth, **Raymond Anderson** is scheduled to be sentenced on November 13. Under a

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cooperation agreement, Anderson testified at the trial in February of a fifth defendant, **Kenneth Day**. Judge Lagueux acquitted Day.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gerard B. Sullivan said at plea hearings that, on the night of June 8, 2000, the five men prowled downtown Providence streets in search of robbery victims. Shortly after 1:00 AM, near the Arcade in downtown Providence, Floyd and Burdick forced Burgeson and Shute at gunpoint into Burgeson's SUV and commandeered the vehicle.

With Sanchez, Day, and Anderson leading the way in Sanchez's car, Floyd and Burdick took the victims in the SUV to a remote construction site in Johnston, now the site of Button Hole golf course. There, with Day and Sanchez urging him on, Floyd shot both victims. Sullivan said that, not only did Sanchez urge the executions but he said he'd shoot the victims if Floyd wouldn't. The carjackers then divided among themselves the proceeds of the crime -- approximately \$18 in change from the SUV.

All five defendants were arrested the following day and, after initially being charged with state crimes, were indicted by a federal grand jury in December 2000 on charges of conspiracy and carjacking resulting in death. In the ensuing months, Floyd, Burdick, Sanchez, and Anderson pleaded guilty to those charges.

### **Upward departure**

Federal sentencing guidelines called for Sanchez to be sentenced to between 325 and 404 months in prison. Arguing for the upward departure, Assistant U.S. Attorney Sullivan cited five provisions mentioned in the Sentencing Guidelines as possible reasons for exceeding the guideline range: the crime resulted in the deaths of Shute and

Burgeson; there was unlawful restraint involved; a lethal firearm, loaded with hollow point bullets, was used; there was extremely cruel conduct in the manner in which the execution-style killings were carried out; and the murders were committed to conceal the hijacking and eliminate witnesses. Judge Lagueux sided with the government on all five points.

The case was investigated by **Johnston Police** and the **Federal Bureau of Investigation**. They were assisted by the **Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms**, the **RI Department of Corrections Special Investigations Unit**, and **Providence Police**.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sullivan, who was assisted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary E. Rogers and two state prosecutors: Assistant Attorneys General Stephen Dambruch and Peter Neronha.

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Contact: 528-5224

[Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov](mailto:Thomas.connell@usdoj.gov)